

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

5th March 2017



Parish Office hours

Monday - Friday 10 am – 5.00 pm

Phone 5331 2933

ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Priests, Frs Justin Driscoll, Anthony Nagothu, Sajan Matthew

Parish Office Jacinta Westbrook, Finance Officer Jess Salazar

Family Ministry Anita Houlihan, Grounds Tony McVeigh

Cathedral Parish Pastoral Carer at Ballarat Health Services Tracy Sillekens

Principals of our three Parish Schools

[St Patrick's Primary](#) Mark Hogbin, [St Thomas More](#) Rosa Tocchet, [Siena](#) at Lucas Jo Brewer

Cathedral Parish Masses	March 11 th /12 th	Skipton	Beaufort	Snake Valley
6.30 pm Vigil, 8.00 am, 10.30 am, 5.00 pm		6.30 pm Vigil	8.30am	10.30 am

Masses during the coming week

Monday	12.05pm	Cathedral		
Tuesday	12.05 pm	Cathedral		
Wednesday	9.30 am	Sebastopol	10.00 am St John of God (Feast Day Mass) 12.05 pm Cathedral	
Thursday	9.30 am	Redan	No Mass at St John of God	12.05 pm Cathedral
Friday	9.30 am	Sebastopol	12.05pm Cathedral	
Saturday	10.00 am	Cathedral		

Sacrament of Reconciliation Friday 11.30 am, Saturday 11.30 am

Morning Prayer of the Church 8.00 am Tuesday – Friday in the Cathedral

Stations of the Cross Wednesdays 11.15 am in English and on Fridays at 6.30 pm
(with Fr Sajan and the Syro Malabar community, in Malayalam)

Friday's in Lent

The law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any of the following:

- (a) **Prayer:** for example, Mass attendance; family prayer, a visit to a church or chapel, reading the Bible, the Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary...
- (b) **Self-denial:** for example, not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reducing time for watching TV or other entertainments (digital detox?).
- (c) **Helping others** for example, taking the family to visit the elderly, visiting the sick or someone who is lonely.

Recent Deaths: Diana DeCarli, Susan Nielsen, John (Jack) Nolan

Anniversaries: John & Eileen Anchen, John Anchen, Nick Bomitali, Philip Franklin, Max Gilbert, Peg Giuliano, Barbara Gleeson, Leslie Pearce, Patricia Pearce, Barry Ridsdale, Patricia Torpey, James White, Kevin White

Next week's readings: *Sunday March 12th 2017* *2nd Sunday of Lent (A)*
Genesis 12:1-4 Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22 2 Timothy 1:8-10 Matthew 17:1-9

Parish RCIA Update

At the Rite of Election held in the Cathedral on Saturday March 4th our Catechumens - Vasudha Gill, Kate Godfrey, Jade Martin-Lench, and Daska Saleeba, were presented to Bishop Paul who received their desire for full Christian initiation. They are now called the Elect as they prepare for baptism confirmation and first communion. Our baptised candidates - Kellie Constable, Bradley Harris, Bronwyn Illingworth, Andrea Romeo and Kris Scott also submitted desire to become full members of the Catholic Church. At 7.00 pm Wednesday evening in lent the RCIA catechumens and candidates from the Cathedral parish and St Columba's parish Ballarat North together with their sponsors and godparents and RCIA team members will gather in this Lenten period of purification and enlightenment. On various Sundays throughout Lent the RCIA scrutinies will be celebrated and the presentations of the Lord's Prayer and the Creed will be made to the catechumens (those who are not already baptised).

Conversations about the Catholic Church

Fr Kevin Murphy will facilitate monthly discussion on issues, questions, suggestions that emerge in the Catholic Church. To be held in the Green room at St Patrick's Cathedral hall, Ballarat beginning on March 15th, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm and then each third Wednesday of the month.

Youth Ministry in the Cathedral Parish

YESS (Youth Every Second Sunday) is back for 2017. YESS will run on 2nd and 4th Sunday every month and is held in the smaller hall at the Cathedral. The young people will lead the 5.00 pm Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month. High School age young people are welcome to attend. Many thanks to the Young Adult Leadership team – Michaela Corrigan, Daniel Van Styn and Esther De Losa and Chiara Angeli for their service and commitment. Please contact Michaela Corrigan on 0431295207.

Nazareth House Auxiliary Coffee Party

Friday, March 17th in the Hall at Nazareth House, Mill St Ballarat. All welcome!

Collections	Envelopes \$1,624.00	Loose \$585.30	Presbytery \$2,178.70
Counters	4 th March Team 2	Next week Team 3	

Feedback from the draft concepts for the Cathedral garden

Many thanks to all who have offered feedback which the precinct team have collated and offer for all to see the many and varied comments relating to the draft concept of the garden to be an oasis of mercy that will foster healing and reconciliation. Copies available and on display in the transept.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2017

Singers and musicians are invited to join the music group which is being formed for this Mass, 6.30pm Monday April 10th. Practice times will be advised. Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Child Safety Standards

New state government legislation has come into effect with the New Year which sets standards for child safety. The Cathedral parish has appointed Mr Jess Salazar as our Safeguarding officer and have a [Child Safety Policy](#) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care.

A [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#) has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish.

Call for Nominations – Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Diocese of Ballarat is calling for nominations for lay members of the 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). The DPC is a consultative and advisory body to the Bishop. [Click here](#) for more information or phone Amanda at the Diocese office, phone 5337 7125

.xt3 Lenten Calendar – online & free app

Online Lenten calendar & free app for your mobile device available at <http://www.xt3.com/lent/>



First Sunday of Lent
5th March 2017



Like many of her neighbours in her rural village in the Philippines, Dinia struggled to feed and educate her children, and the struggle worsened after her husband's untimely death. But, with the help of a program supported by Caritas Australia, she now has the skills to earn a better income for her children and help her neighbours in her vulnerable community.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help people in rural areas of the Philippines develop their strengths and build better futures for their families and their neighbours. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by

visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 4:1-11

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the “wilderness” and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter. Today’s liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many humans before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is “tempted”].

Forty is a significant number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number for long time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

The wilderness is ever so real and at the same time symbolic. In Israel’s story, it is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deut 8:2). In Matthew’s account, the “devil” is the “tester” or “tempter”, the instrument of God’s testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus’ relationship to God: “If you are the son of God....” The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God’s empire or the empire “of the heavens” rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed “of God”.

Most people of faith would agree that being “of God” right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth’s human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth’s precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may be truly “of God”.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm